

ACO MOD MODULE Questions:

Number 1. When are we in the field going to be told how to determine when the server is down?

Answer: The application needs to connect to the mid-tier server (ELMER). If the mid-tier server is down, the application will not permit you to log in to the ACO Mod Module at all. The error message you will receive will be "Invalid username ID or Password has been entered." You may also call the MegaCenter Help Desk, (614) 692-1710 and ask if the mid-tier database (Elmer) is up. (The domain name is elmer.cols.disa.mil.)

Number 2. How can we determine when openlink is open in our own area (DCMC Dallas)?

Answer: MOCAS consists of three databases which include MOCG (South), MOCH (East Coast), and MOCL (West Coast). These databases update in a nightly batch cycle. Before Openlink can be brought on-line at the beginning of the day, all MOCs must complete their update process. Openlink is either up for all of DCMC or down for all of DCMC. The architecture of Openlink is such that when any of the three MOCAS databases (MOCH, MOCG or MOCL) are preparing for nightly batch cycles, over running long nightly batch cycle times, or if there is a problem with the database itself, Openlink will not be available to anyone. This is because there are several files that Openlink uses that the batch cycle requires. If Openlink is down, the users will be able to get into the AMM application, but will neither be able to pull new contract information from MOCAS nor send SF30 EDI to MOCAS. The following message will be received: **58 – Error Code 8: CONNECT ERROR to host 131.64.12.34 Winsock returned 10061.** Once all MOCs are on-line, if there is a problem with one of the MOCs during the day, Openlink will be brought off-line only at that one location. The other two MOCs will have access to Openlink. The other two MOCs will have access to Openlink.

Remember: Openlink only works if MOCAS is on-line. If Openlink is down at the beginning of the day, you can sign onto MOCAS at all the three database locations. If a MOC is down, you will not be able to connect. You will know this MOC is off line. You need to check all three MOCs. If one of the MOCs has not finished its nightly batch cycle update, Openlink will not be "turned on." You can call the DCMC Help Desk to see if anyone is working on the problem.

If Openlink is down and you can access MOCAS, then the Openlink Program is shut off. You will need to notify the DCMC Help Desk to request that someone "turn on" Openlink. This doesn't usually happen but it may.

Number 3. ACO MOD Module only works when contractors have remittance addresses in U.S.A. Why would it be deployed in Southern Europe when it won't work because our contractors have overseas remittance addresses?

Answer: The ACO Mod Module was deployed to Southern Europe because DCMC understood that if the modification being written did not affect the remittance address, the mod was capable of being accomplished in the ACO Mod Module. It was recently disclosed that DFAS input clerks are forcing in the foreign remit address into MOCAS. This address is then downloaded into the AMM and when it is sent back to MOCAS via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), it does not validate through the batch front-end of MOCAS, and therefore fails. DCMC Information Technology Center (DITC) in Columbus, Ohio is currently working to fix that problem. We have been directed that we will move to a paperless environment. We are required to provide the tools to the user to make that happen. The Standard Form (SF) 30 Free Form process will post the mod to the Electronic Data Access (EDA) Website. With the SF30 Free Form, the user has the capability to write modifications that include remittance addresses.

Number 4. Why do all Other Disbursing Office (ODO) mods done in the module reject?

Answer: ODO modifications affecting money in MOCAS previously did not update via EDI correctly. This was because MOCAS was attempting to add or delete money from a particular block in MOCAS where the money was equal to \$0.00. An ODO indicates that payments are not made through MOCAS and DFAS-Columbus (DFAS-CO-J) is not the payment office. A program was installed in MOCAS and this problem has been resolved. ODO modifications can be processed in the ACO Mod Module.

Number 5. For distribution to DFAS, when will they be able to pick up our mods off Electronic Data Access or Electronics Data Management (EDA/EDM)? Likewise, making hard-copy distribution to buying commands, when will they (NAVICP for example) be able to go out & get our mods from the web?

Answer: DFAS currently has the capability to access all contracts and modifications off the DISA EDA web site. They also have a system, Electronic Data Management (EDM), which is capable of pulling the EDA contract/mod from EDA and flowing it to the appropriate point of contact in DFAS. I do know, that not all entitlement offices at DFAS are fully operational on EDM. The North Entitlement has been actively using EDM for over 2 years, the South about a year. The West Entitlement Office was to begin

using EDM end of Jan 2000. DFAS has always had the capability to access contracts and modifications off the EDA web, regardless of their ability to use EDM. If the contractual instrument is posted they can retrieve it. Until a higher level of success is achieved for posting/retrieving mods/contracts, DCMC still requires hard copies of all mods sent to DFAS and labeled as appropriate. DCMC expended a lot of time and effort to obtain access to Defense Information System Agency's EDA web site. Other DoD activities, such as NAVICP may need to gain the same access. These activities should contact DISA to determine their access needs. DCAA recently inquired about the same access for vouchers and advice of payments, they obtained a POC at DISA and are establishing an account to permit access. There have been problems with modifications posting to the EDA web site due to various reasons. When a higher confidence level is achieved, then the direction to shut off paper will be given

Note: You should also be aware that not all DCMC contracts and modifications from the services are posted to EDA. Contracts with attachments, Basic Ordering Agreements, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity, bi-lateral modifications, are not posted to EDA.

Number 6. Are there any plans to interface a Termination Contracting Officer (TCO) mod module with the ACO mod module?

Answer: No. There is currently a TAMs application that is used for terminations. Once Standard Procurement System (SPS) is fielded, this will take care of terminations and there will be no need to interface any legacy systems to perform terminations.

Number 7. When will we have electronics signature(s)?

Answer: The ACO Mod Module never intended on including electronic signatures. The EDA site is for the use of DFAS. DFAS feels comfortable in knowing that the ACO Mod Module is a password-protected application with many security controls to permit only warranted contracting officers to send EDI/EDA transactions to MOCAS and EDA respectively. SPS will have this electronic signature functionality

Number 8. Will CAOs be able to continue using FREE FORM mods also? Indefinitely?

Answer: The FREE FORM modification will be available as long as the ACO Mod Module is the DCMC tool for writing modifications. Upon deployment of SPS, however, the FREE FORM and the ACO Mod module will be retired.

Number 9. Are there going to be changes made to either the ACO Mod Module or Free Form to allow attachments to be put on mods. At least make the changes to the Free Form application to allow this capability.

Answer: There are no changes to the ACO Mod Module or the SF30 Free Form. SPS will replace this application upon full deployment.

Number 10. Systems Material Command-LA Air Force Base Procuring Contracting Officer (SMC-LAFB PCO) mods are not dated with either effective date or signed date.

Answer: This apparently is an issue that needs to be addressed with the SMC-LAFB PCO. All modifications and contracts should contain an effective date and signature date. The ACO Mod Module also has the same situation. If the person preparing the modification does not place an effective date in Block 2 or a signature date in block 16c of the SF30, then the modification will not contain dates. As in the paper environment, you must date and sign all modifications/contracts. This is an education issue.

Number 11. In order to say we are 100% paperless, I need the ability to post my ACO awarded delivery orders on the web. I issue hundreds of delivery orders, and I'm only able to post modifications to the delivery orders, but not the original delivery order.

Answer: The ACO Mod Module does not have the ability to issue anything other than SF30s. Delivery orders (DD Forms 1155) cannot be processed through the module. With the deployment of SPS, this capability will be realized.

Number 12. I'm still having problems with purchase orders paper copy of the awarded electronically not matching the purchase orders. Issue has been elevated. Problem reported about ½ year ago. Please pass this on to liaisons. Primary problems are with DSCP & DSCR.

Answer: This is an issue that is very sensitive and has been occurring for quite some time. We have and are continuing to have many mismatches on what is posted to the EDA web site and the hard copy that is distributed. The DCMC's Customer Liaison Representatives (CLRs) have been notified. We are working with the Buying Activities and DCMC HQ to resolve the issues. This has to be dealt with swiftly to ensure that everyone understands that the electronic version of the contracts/mods are the ones DCMC and DFAS use. Care should be made to ensure that pen-and-ink changes are not made to a contractual document once it has been sent and published to the DISA EDA web site.

For additional information, visit

<http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/onebook/3.0/3.2/ContRecRev.htm>